

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ASUNCION 001263

SIPDIS

DEPT OF JUSTICE FOR FAYE EHRENSTAMN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR/OPDAT,
CHRISTIAAN DE LUIGI DOJ/OPDAT

STATE FOR WHA/BSC, S/CT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KJUS](#) [KCRM](#) [ABUD](#) [AFIN](#) [PA](#) [POL](#)

SUBJECT: PARAGUAY: DOJ/OPDAT COUNTRY CLEARANCE Cable FOR
USDOJ/OPDAT Program Analyst Christiaan De Luigi to conduct
Regional FIU Training Conference, Asuncion, Paraguay October
10-12, 2005.

REF: DOJ 2549 DOJ

1. Per reftel, country clearance is granted for
OPDAT Program ANALYST CHRISTIAAN DE LUIGI (Clearance level
Secret), for travel to Asuncion during the period of

SIPDIS

OCT/7/05 to OCT/13/05 for
the purpose of PARTICIPATING IN A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS AND THEIR ROLE AGAINST THE
TRANSPORTATION OF CURRENCY AND THE ILLICIT USE OF CHARITIES
IN ASUNCION. The contact officer for the
visit is RLA, Scott Thorley, office tel.:595-21-213-715,
ext. 2039. Home tel.:664-567.

2. Hotel reservations have been confirmed at the
EXSELSIOR Hotel, (address: CHILE 980;
telephone: 595-21-495-632). This hotel is located
approximately 3 miles from the Embassy. Cost
of the single/double room is USD 90.00 per
night with tax and breakfast included.

3. Due to budget constraints, post will only provide
airport expediter for initial arrival and final
departure of employees assigned to post, as well as for
senior officials. Other travelers requiring special
assistance should request an expediter in advance and
provide fiscal data. Taxis are available from the
airport. A taxi ride from the airport to your hotel
may cost you anywhere from 45,000 to 60,000 guaranies,
approximately 8 to 10 USD.

4. All U.S. citizens traveling to Paraguay are
now required to have visas. Airport and border
visas are not available at this time. Please
contact the Paraguayan Embassy or closest
Consulate for more information, especially if you
require a multiple entry visa.

5. If travel plans involve visiting neighboring
countries in the region, please arrive with
appropriate visas and obtain country clearances
from the appropriate U.S. Embassies. Brazil and
Argentina requires visas for official travelers on
diplomatic, official, and/or personal passports.
Official visitors contemplating travel to Iguazu
Falls should advise the Embassy before doing so as
well as Embassy Brasilia and/or Embassy Buenos
Aires if they plan to cross into Brazil and
Argentina. Travelers are reminded that Iguazu
Falls is located on the border of Brazil and
Argentina, about ten miles east of Ciudad del
Este, Paraguay, and that travelers from Paraguay
cross into Brazil.

6. Post recommends that even though you will be
only transiting Brazil, you also obtain a
Brazilian visa. If the airline cancels or delays
its flight to Asuncion, then you may have to stay
in Sao Paulo for one day while waiting for the
next available flight to Asuncion. Brazilian
authorities will not permit you to leave the
airport to go to a hotel without a valid Brazilian
visa. U.S. citizens may be fingerprinted and
photographed upon entry into Brazil. This applies
to holders of diplomatic and official passports,
as well as tourist passports.

7. Threat Assessment:

A. Political Violence-Terrorism: There are no
indigenous terrorist organizations in Paraguay.
There are no political groups or parties that are
currently active in this country that are
specifically targeting U.S. interests. However,
given the presence of members of and support for
extremist terrorist groups in the tri-border
region (Alto Parana and Itapua Departments),
visitors here cannot discount the possibility of

terrorist activity, to include random acts of anti-American violence.

1B. Crime: Paraguay is a high-threat post for crime. Petty street crime in the city of Asuncion and the immediate suburbs continues to be a problem for residents and visitors alike. Visitors to the city of Asuncion should be aware of problems with pickpockets or purse snatchers on the street or on public transportation. Until recently, most crime affecting visitors has been non-violent; aggravated robberies, shootings, etc., while not completely unheard of in Asuncion, were nonetheless uncommon. However, incidents of armed robberies of businesses and residences by criminal groups are occurring with greater frequency, and as a result, it is recommended that due caution be exercised when traveling about the city.

18. The seasons in Paraguay are the opposite of those in the United States. Asuncion's climate is extremely hot from November through April and cool or mild in July and August. The transitional seasons, May - June and September - October are unpredictable: they can be pleasant or hot. Health conditions generally are good. The water in Asuncion is potable, and there are few reports of intestinal or stomach problems. There is no endemic hepatitis or malaria in Asuncion although outbreaks of dengue fever are recurrent.

19. As of Aug/3/05 (date) the exchange rate is 6,090 guaranies to one US dollar. Personal Finances: Official travelers may cash personal checks at the Embassy for amounts up to US\$ 750.00 per week; and use their ATM cards at one of the many terminals located throughout the city. Because of restrictions with the embassy bank, ABN-AMRO, traveler's checks may only be cashed with one of the local exchange houses.

110. Laptops, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) Pilots, cellular telephones and other electronic devices: Laptops and PDAs may not be brought into the Embassy without the prior approval of the Regional Security Office. Personally owned laptops, PDAs may not/not be used in the Embassy. USG-owned laptops may only be used in Controlled Access Areas (CAA) if the user certifies that the computer has been continuously under the personal control of a cleared American throughout transit. If this requirement is not met, the laptop can only be utilized outside of the CAA. USG-owned PDAs are under the same restrictions as cellular phones and other electronic devices, and may not be utilized within the CAA.

111. Security Clearance: State Department policy requires that all official visitors verify their security clearances, in writing, with the RSO in order to have unescorted access to the Embassy. Visitors whose clearances are not verified must be escorted at all times. TDY'ers must schedule a security in briefing with the security office as soon as possible after arriving at post. Access badges will not be issued until the employee has acknowledged receipt of the required security briefing."